

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 03672 091438Z
ACTION ARA-14

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P 051945Z AUG 77 ZFG
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 3672

FOR IOP; ILA; IPS; IBS STATE FOR ARA/CEN

MEDIAREACT: PAT DERIAN VISIT TO EL SALVADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

UNCLAS. AUGUST 5. NEWSPAPERS SHUT DOWN FOR LOCAL HOLIDAYS WEDNESDAY,
TRUNCATING COMMENT ON DERIAN VISIT. HIGH CIRCULATION, CONSER-
VATIVE PRENSA GRAFICA RAN COPIOUS NEWS COVERAGE OF VISIT, INCLUDING
BANNER HEAD AND FULL PAGE PHOTO OF DERIAN PARTY ENTERING ARCHBISHOPRIC,

INSIDE PHOTO/CAPTION ON HER WAY OUT, AND SEPARATE STORIES ON MEETINGS
WITH PRESIDENT AND WITH CHURCH OFFICIALS. MEETINGS WITH OPPOSITION
AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES UNREPORTED. PHOTO CAPTION QUOTED
DERIAN DECLARING HERSELF "PLEASED" WITH MEETINGS. TOP CIRCULATION,
ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE DIARIO DE HOY LIMITED ITS PAGE THREE STORY
TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. DIARIO LATINO, CONSERVATIVE AFTERNOON
DAILY, CARRIED SMALL STORY ON PAGE THREE.

BOTH STORIES IN MORNING PRESS QUOTED SALVADORAN PARTICIPANTS ON
MEETINGS' CONTENT. DIARIO GAVE FULLER COVERAGE OF FOMIN MARTINEZ,
STATEMENTS AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT. MARTINEZ QUOTED TO BE "VERY
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03672 091438Z

HAPPY TO HAVE AN OFFICIAL OF HER RANK CONCENTRATING ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, 'SINCE WE SALVADORANS,' HE SAID, 'HAVE BEEN THE STANDARD
BEARERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. ONE MUST REMEMBER
OUR PROTEST TO THE WORLD IN JULY, 1969, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE
SALVADORANS IN HONDURAS. ON THAT OCCASION NO ONE LISTENED
TO US AND NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TAKING UP THE FIGHT,
WE ARE HAPPY THAT THEY VISIT US.'" MARTINEZ SAID RICHARDSON CASE NOT

DISCUSSED SPECIFICALLY. "WHAT IS MORE, HE STATED THAT THIS CASE, KNOWN AS THE 'KNAPSACKER CASE,' IS APPARENTLY CLOSED."

PRENSA STORY INCLUDED COMMENTS BY THE ARCHBISHOP ON ENCOUNTER WITH DERIAN. "THE ARCHBISHOP OF SAN SALVADOR, MORENO ROMERO, SAID AFTER THE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMISSARY THAT HE TOLD MISS DERIAN THE CHURCH IS STILL INSECURE, HAVING NO CONCRETE GUARANTEES. HE SAID THAT IT STILL HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO REALIZE A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT 'AS LONG AS IT IS NOT PROVEN WITH DEEDS THAT THE CHURCH IS SAFEGUARDED, THAT INSECURITY WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL.'"

GRIFFITHS

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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